Applicant hereby states under CFR 1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing

Applicant hereby states under CFR 1.97(e)(2) that no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was

first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing below after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

A concise explanation of the relevance of foreign language patents, foreign language publications and other foreign language information listed on PTO Form 1449, as presently understood by the individual(s) designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content is given on the attached sheet, or where a foreign language patent is cited in a search report or other action by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, an English language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is listed on form PTO 1449 and is enclosed herewith.

It is requested that the information disclosed herein be made of record in this application.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

Date of Deposit:

March 13, 2001

Typed Name:

Signature:

Respectfully submitted,

By: Thomas J. Meaney

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